WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- A system for changing one or more physical layer communications parameters as configured in a physical layer device, the system comprising:
 - a first interface for receiving the parameters; and
 - a serial interface that
- stores the parameters in advance of sending the parameters to the physical layer device, and
- sends the parameters to the physical layer device at a predetermined time.
- The system of claim 1, wherein said first interface is a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) interface.
- The system of claim 1, wherein said serial interface is a serial peripheral interface (SPI).
 - The system of claim 1, further comprising:
- a central processing unit (CPU) that sends the parameters to said first interface.
 - 5. The system of claim 1, wherein said serial interface comprises:
- a transmit first-in first-out (FIFO) queue in which the parameters are stored:
- a serial interface port through which the parameters are sent to the physical layer device; and
- one or more control registers for storing an indication of said predetermined time at which the parameters are to be sent from said transmit queue to the physical layer device.

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- The system of claim 5, wherein said control registers further store a channel identifier, which corresponds to a communications channel to which the parameters pertain.
- The system of claim I, wherein the physical layer communications parameters correspond to a burst profile.
- A method of changing one or more physical layer communications parameters in a physical layer device, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) receiving the parameters;
 - (b) storing the parameters in a serial interface;
- (c) receiving a point in time at which the parameters are to changeover;
 - (d) storing the changeover point in the serial interface; and
- (e) at the changeover point, writing the parameters to the physical layer device.
- The method of claim 8, wherein the parameters correspond to a burst profile.
- 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said step (b) comprises the step of storing the parameters in a transmit first-in first-out (FIFO) queue in the serial interface.
- 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the changeover point is expressed in terms of a minislot count.
- 12. The method of claim 8, wherein said step (d) comprises storing an indication of the changeover point in one or more control registers of the serial interface.

- 13. The method of claim 8, wherein said step (e) comprises writing the parameters to the physical layer device via a serial interface port in the serial interface.
 - 14. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:
- $\label{eq:continuous} (f) \qquad \text{receiving periodic updates of the current time,} \\ \text{performed before step (e)}.$
- $15. \qquad \text{The method of claim 14, wherein the periodic updates are minislot} \\ \text{counts.}$